

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2441
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL SINGAPORE
DEA HQS WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 2094

BANGKOK FOR AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, NL
SUBJ: DUTCH JUSTICE MINISTER PLANS TO VISIT SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. JUSTICE MINISTER DE RUITER RECENTLY INFORMED THE CHARGE THAT HE PLANS TO VISIT SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR TWO WEEKS IN EARLY MAY IN ORDER TO DISCUSS NARCOTICS MATTERS. DE RUITER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY JUSTICE MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL-DESIGNATE LENNART ORNJE AND JAN VAN STRATEN, HEAD OF THE NATIONAL NARCOTICS UNIT AND SOON TO BECOME CHIEF OF THE JUSTICE MINISTRY'S CENTRAL CRIMINAL INFORMATION SERVICE.
2. ACCORDING TO ORANJE, THE VISIT WAS PROPOSED BY THE AMBASSADORS OF SOME OF THE COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED, WHO SUGGESTED THAT THE MINISTER FOLLOW THE PRECEDENT OF HIS PREDECESSOR (AND NOW PRIME MINISTER) VAN AGT, WHO MADE A TOUR OF THE SAME AREA IN LATE 1976.

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3. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO OBTAIN AN OVERALL VIEW OF THE DRUG SITUATION IN SOUTHERST ASIA AND DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE REPATRIATION BY THE NETHERLANDS OF ILLEGALLY RESIDENT CHINESE ALIENS. VAN STRATEN TOLD US THAT DE RUITER AGREED TO MAKE THE TRIP WHEN HE BECAME AWARE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN THE NETHERLANDS. DE RUITER HAS LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF NJRCOTIC LAW ENFORCEMENT. A JUDGE AND LAW

PROFESSOR BEFORE ENTERING THE GOVERNMENT LAST DECEMBER, HE IS AN EXPERT ON THE DUTCH JUDICIARY.

4. THE SCHEDULE FOR DE RUITER'S TRIP IS AS FOLLOWS:

DATE	PLACE
MAY 2	DEPART AMSTERDAM
MAY 3-6	BANGKOK
MAY 6-8	KUALA LUMPUR
MAY 8-10	SINGAPORE
MAY 10-12	HONG KONG
MAY 13	RETURN AMSTERDAM

5. DE RUITER ALSO TOLD THE CHARGE THAT HE IS CONSIDERING A VISIT TO THE U.S. AS SUGGESTED BY AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY DURING A MEETING JANUARY 11. A SIMILAR VISIT MADE VAN AGT A CONVERT TO NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT IN JANUARY 1975. ORANJE INFORMS US THAT DE RUITER IS NOT LIKELY TO VISIT THE U.S. UNTIL FALL.

6. FOR AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE FROM CHARGE BROWN: THE MEETING THAT YOU ARRANGED AMONG YOURSELF, THE REGIONAL DEA OFFICE IN BANGKOK AND VAN AGT TWO YEARS AGO WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. IF IT IS CONVENIENT, I HOPE THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO EXTEND THE SAME INVITATION TO DE RUITER AND HIS COLLEAGUES THROUGH THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR.
BROWN

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